

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 SY-10 USSS-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 IO-13 NIC-01 /143 W

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R 021005Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4523

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDNR, AF, CH, UR

SUBJ: VIEWS OF PRC AMBASSADOR ON AFGHAN COUP

REF: A) KABUL 5703; B) KABUL 5731

1. IN JULY 30 MEETING YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SOBAJIC (REF B) ALSO RELATED TO ME SUBSTANCE OF HIS JULY 20 CONVERSATION WITH PRC AMBASSADOR KAN YEH-TAO CONCERNING THE AFGHAN COUP.

2. KAN YEH-TAO PURPORTED TO BE WORRIED OVER EFFECT OF COUP ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS. CHINESE ARE CONCERNED NOT SO MUCH WITH ANY POSSIBLE INTERNAL RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP ITSELF, BUT WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT AFGHANISTAN WILL NOW INCLINE MORE TOWARDS RUSSIAN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA. IN CHINESE VIEW ZAHIR MONARCHY WAS BAD BUT AT LEAST IT MAINTAINED THE BALANCE, BUT NOW AFGHANISTAN MAY "TILT" MORE HEAVILY AGAINST
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PAKISTAN. KAN YEH-TAO SAID CHINA WOULD WATCH THE SITUATION

CLOSELY AS TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD BE AMONG THE LAST TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME. (NOTE: PRC RECOGNIZED REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT ON JULY 28, LAST MAJOR POWER TO DO SO.)

3. AS AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, AMBASSADOR SOBAJIC TOLD ME THAT FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS AFTER THE COUP (JULY 17-20) HIS RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN CONTACTS APPEARED VERY CONFIDENT AND SELF-SATISFIED. THEY HAD EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT DAUD WAS JUST A FIGUREHEAD AND IT WAS THE YOUNGER OFFICERS WHO HAD SPARKED THE COUP AND WERE THE KEY ELEMENTS IN RUNNING THE COUNTRY. AFTER THREE DAYS, HOWEVER, THIS ATTITUDE ABRUPTLY CHANGED AND THE RUSSIANS APPEARED TO BE BEWILDERED AS IF EVENTS HAD TAKEN A SUDDEN TURN THAT THEY HADN'T EXPECTED. SOON AFTERWARDS (JULY 28) RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR PUZANOV DEPARTED ON A SUDDEN JOURNEY TO MOSCOW WHICH, THE AMBASSADOR THEORIZED, MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CHANGE IN RUSSIAN ATTITUDE.

4. AS A FINAL NOTE, SOBAJIC SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THE LIBYAN DELEGATION WHICH VISITED KABUL JULY 28-29 HAD WANTED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUT WERE TOLD THEY COULD TALK TO DAUD AND DAUD ONLY. HE DID NOT SPECULATE AS TO HOW THIS DECISION WAS MADE BUT IF TRUE IT COULD BE INDICATIVE THAT DAUD IS GAINING THE UPPER HAND IN WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND MAY BE AN INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE.
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